Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program

Accelerating Adoption of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The DOE/EERE Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program (WIP) increases awareness and accelerates adoption of practices and technologies that cost-effectively increase energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and oil displacement. It develops information and tools that remove specific market barriers to a more energy-efficient economy.

The program funds energy projects as well as technical assistance and tools for state governments, community action agencies, utilities, Indian tribes, and energy and economic development programs overseas.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program works in partnership with states and more than 900 local agencies to provide weatherization services to approximately 100,000 low-income families annually.

Since the inception of the program in 1976, it has provided services to more than 5.7 million homes and produced annual savings of 30.5 trillion British thermal units (Btu). This country's largest energy efficiency program awards annual grants to state weatherization programs. DOE historically provides 40% of all weatherization funding, while states, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and utilities contribute the remaining funds.

The Weatherization Assistance Program reduces the energy expenditures of low-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. Clients receive a series of cost-effective measures that are tailored to their homes and climate. Under current prices, the average first-year savings for weatherization clients is $403, which equates to a 32% reduction in heating costs. Weatherization returns $1.53 in energy-related benefits for every $1 invested in the Program. Taken together, $2.69 in energy and nonenergy benefits is the return on every $1 invested in the program.

State Energy Program

The State Energy Program (SEP) provides grants and technical assistance to states and U.S. territories to promote energy conservation and reduce the growth of energy demand. In a typical year, projects in SEP state plans save over $300,000,000 in energy costs.

Using SEP formula grants, state energy offices develop cost-shared energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that meet their unique needs and are consistent with national energy goals. The projects encompass every sector of the economy and represent all EERE technologies. Some focus on innovative financing solutions to increase access to capital, such as performance contracting and revolving loan funds.

In addition, the SEP co-funds "special projects" through competitive state solicitations. In 2007 DOE funded six SEP special projects to implement the Energy Policy Act, Section 140, to develop or expand energy efficiency programs; four projects to demonstrate the air quality benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; and three projects to support interstate trading of renewable energy credits. Other EERE activities such as Clean Cities and Building Codes and Standards are also supported through SEP special projects. SEP special projects grants are an ideal vehicle to implement sections of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), including those related to alternative fuel production goals.

The SEP also supports strategic partnerships with organizations representing governors, state and utility policymakers, local government leaders, and private industry to identify common objectives and to leverage DOE's outreach efforts.

Through SEP, states target both near-term deployment of energy efficiency and renewable technologies and long-term market transformation. States are uniquely situated to bring about lasting change through adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards, advanced building codes, sustainable community and land-use planning, and innovative energy policies and programs.

The Illinois "Corn Bus" has been featured in numerous parades and local events. Fourteen ethanol-powered buses operate along regular routes in Peoria, Illinois.

Renewable Energy Production Incentive

The Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) provides financial incentives to public utilities, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, Indian tribal governments, and Native American corporations for electricity produced from renewable energy. Qualifying facilities receive about $0.018 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the first 10 years of operation. Congress initiated the program because municipal utilities and not-for-profit electrical cooperatives are not eligible for production tax credits that are available to tax-paying utilities. Since 2000, $31 million from REPI to qualifying facilities has produced more than 5.1 billion kWh from renewable energy resources.

Tribal Energy Program

The DOE Tribal Energy Program promotes tribal energy sufficiency, economic development, and employment on tribal lands through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Tribes receive financial and technical assistance through government-to-government partnerships that allow tribal leaders to make informed decisions about energy, bring renewable energy and energy efficiency options to Indian tribes, enhance human capacity through education and training, and improve local tribal economies and the environment.

Since 1992, DOE has invested $12.4 million in 92 projects in Indian Country, and participating Indian tribes have contributed an additional $3.3 million to these energy projects.

American Indians from Sioux Indian Tribe (Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota) take a tour of the Ponnequin Windo Farm, Weld County, Colorado.

International Program

The DOE International Renewable Energy Program demonstrates and encourages the use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies in international markets. Historically the Program has leveraged funding from international organizations and replicated successes to other countries, while expanding the demand for U.S. energy technologies.

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

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